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FORT HILL SQUARE

A PLAN TO:

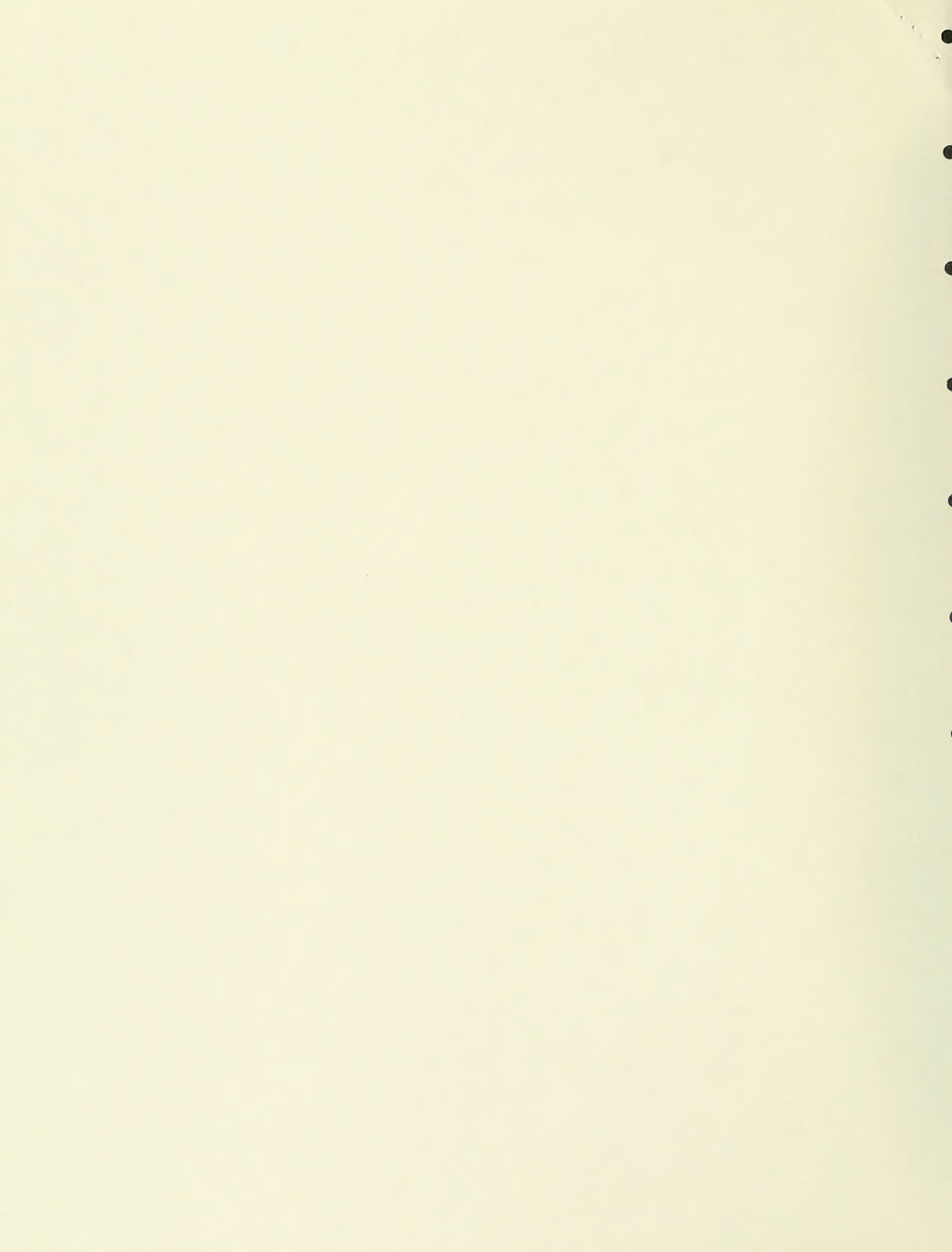
- o Link the Financial District and the Waterfront.
- o Recreate a traditional Boston Square.
- o Establish Memorials to Police Officers and Firefighters.
- o Portray the History of Fort Hill.

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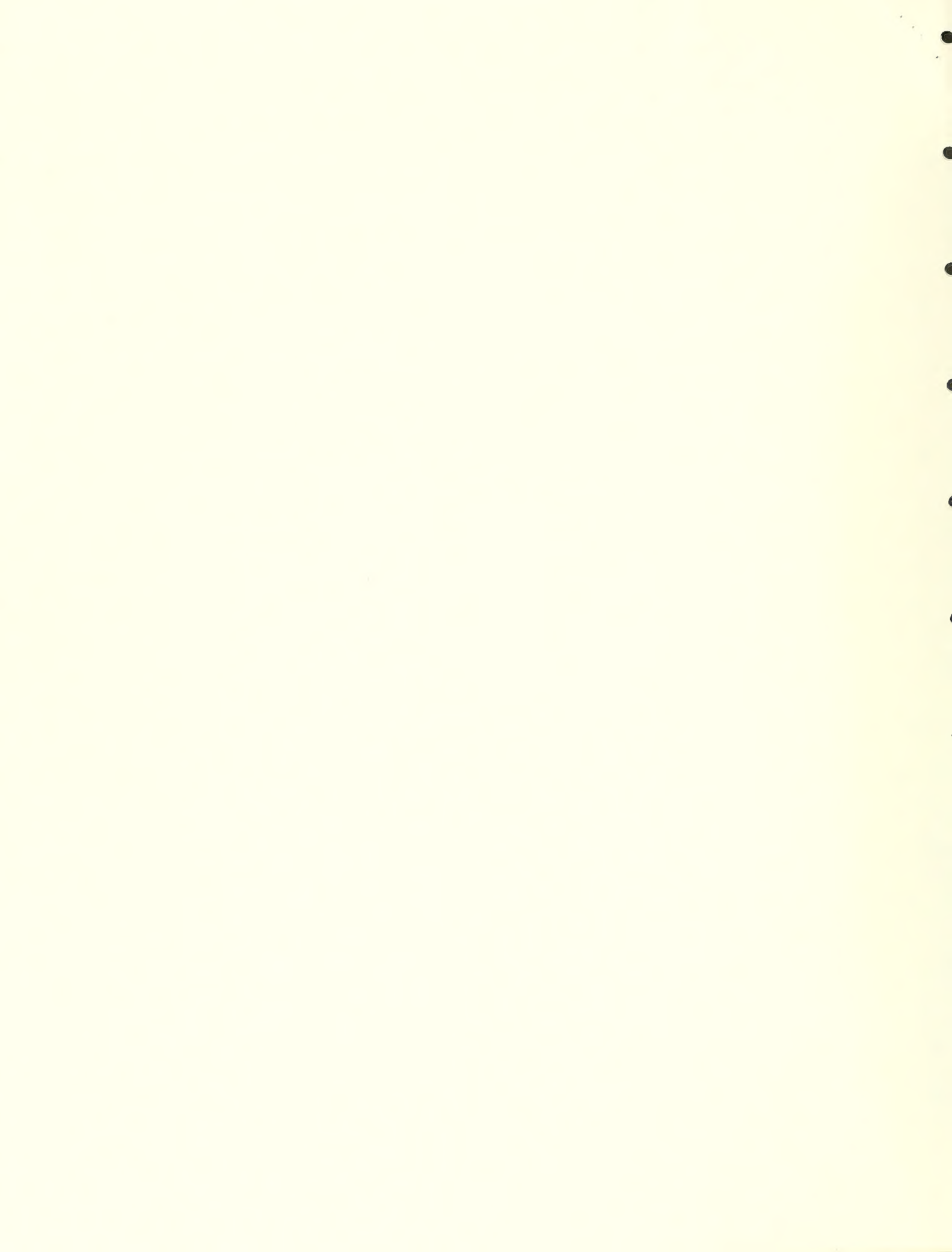
THE CHIOFARO COMPANY

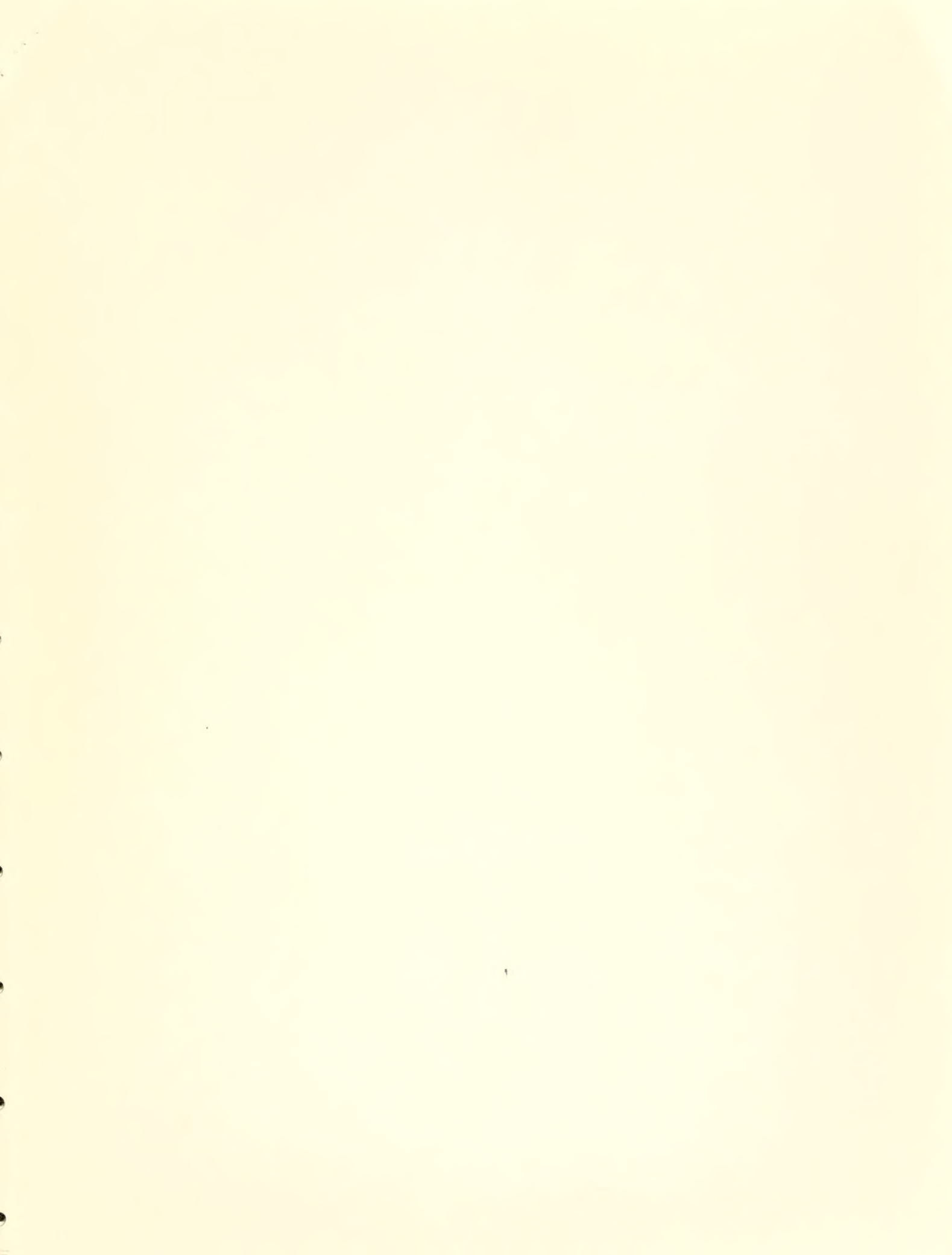
August, 1988

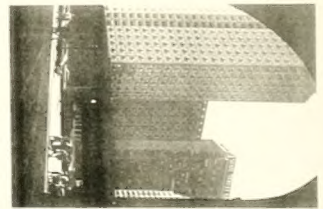
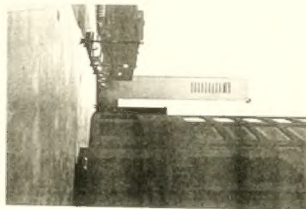
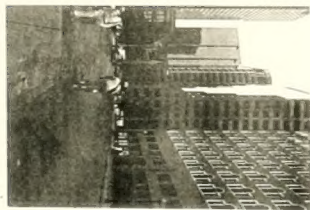
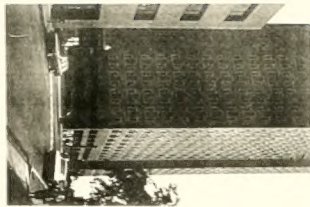
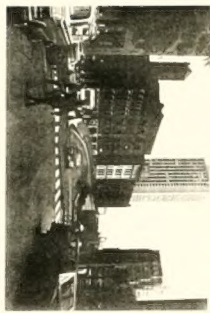
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FORT HILL SQUARE
Ground Plane Study

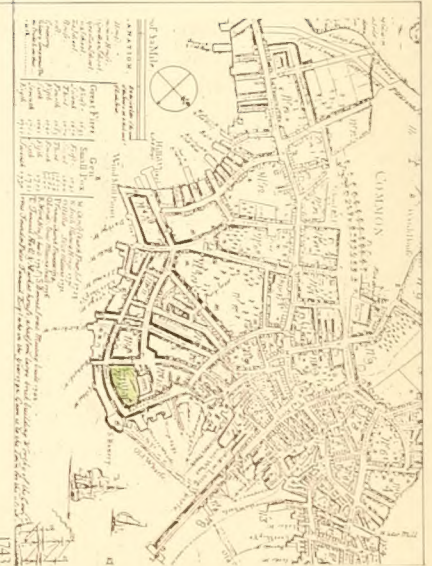
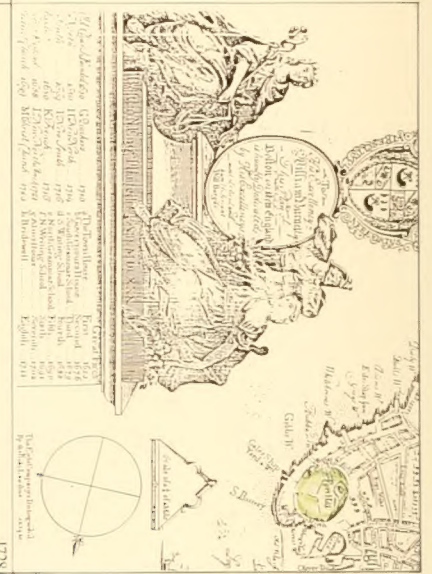
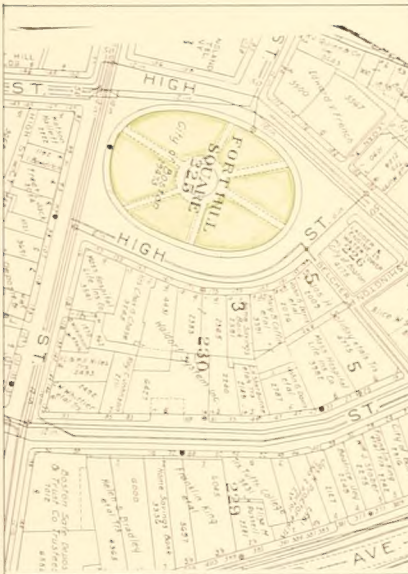
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JULY 1988

TODAY

Arriving in downtown Boston by water today is one of the most exhilarating experiences available in any American city. But once through the great arch at Rowes Wharf, that experience becomes one of disorientation and frustration for the pedestrian. The new pavement demarking the crosswalk at Atlantic Avenue that leads under the central artery is only a temporary solution to create linkage with the edge of the downtown, but there is no permanent, well-conceived gesture to welcome and to focus the visitor into the heart of the city. The current experience resembles arriving at the entrance to a maze.





HISTORY

It is important to remember that this area was once a major Boston landmark--Fort Hill. Its strategic position and topography played a vital role in the protection of the early settlement, with one of the two waterfront batteries located nearby. Period maps show that the crest of the hill remained as a significant urban space for over three hundred years. Although the buildings forming its edges were replaced from time to time, a circular or oblong park remained with a radial pattern of walks until the 1940's, when a city parking garage was constructed there. International Place has since replaced the garage. Today, it is hard to believe that such an important part of Boston's heritage was so recently consumed in the path of the city's dramatic post-war growth.







FORT HILL SQUARE
Ground Plane Study

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LOCUS

To make one's way into the downtown area from Rowes Wharf, one walks along High Street to the corner of Oliver Street. From here a choice must be made--to turn right towards Government Center, Beacon Hill, Faneuil Hall, and Quincy Market; or, to continue along High Street toward Downtown Crossing, the Midtown Cultural District, Boston Common, and Back Bay. Conversely, if one is leaving Boston by water, the intersection of High and Oliver Streets is potentially a key point of orientation along the way.

It is also important to realize that the extension of Oliver Street will become one of the primary connections from the downtown to the future expansion of the City across Fort Point Channel via the new Northern Avenue Bridge. Hence, the intersection of High and Oliver Streets will become a significant node in both the pedestrian and vehicular networks which will integrate the "New City" to the existing downtown.

Both of these factors create a compelling need to make something of this place which is so important to the City's future, as well as the pedestrian walks, which connect it to Rowes Wharf and the Channel.



Fire Dept. Memorial

Hill Street

Oliver Street

Police Dept Memorial

FORT HILL SQUARE
Ground Plane Study



CONCEPT

There is a remarkable opportunity to make a "new" square at High and Oliver Street which, by its name, design, and location, will recall the history of Fort Hill. The proposed design of "Fort Hill Square" recalls the same circular pattern with its inscribed radials of the earlier park on Fort Hill. The pattern is created through the use of varied colors and textures of granite paving stones, which visually integrate street and sidewalk surfaces to unify the entire space between the surrounding buildings to make the Square.

The sidewalk at the corner of International Place is gradually sloped to street level to create this effect. Bollards connected by chains, together with pavings, establish the sidewalk edge physically and graphically to provide safety for the pedestrian. Cobblestones set outside the circle will alert vehicular traffic entering the Square. The radial pattern will be configured to create clearly marked pedestrian crossing zones.

The broad walks leading to Fort Hill Square along the International Place side of Oliver and High Streets between Atlantic Avenue and the Square will be bordered by trees along the street. Retail shops and building entrance lobbies activate the edges of International Place. Light poles with flags to announce changing events in the City are proposed for the narrower walks on the opposite sides of Oliver and High Streets. However, where the walk widens between Batterymarch and Oliver Streets, trees are proposed to border the Square, complementing the existing trees at the State Street Bank corner. A similar treatment is proposed at the Southwest corner of the Square. Signage along the walks and leading into and out of the Square will help direct pedestrian and vehicular traffic to other parts of the City.

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